



# Lowerplace Primary School Newsletter

Friday 18th September 2020

## Ms Martin's Update

Dear Children and Families,

As we come to the end of our second week of term it's lovely to see how everyone has settled into our new ways of working. Thank you to all parents for following our one-way systems around the school grounds. This week it was also lovely to meet some of our Y4 parents in the Zoom swimming meeting.

Sadly this week, like many schools, I had to take the decision to ask a year group to isolate for 14 days due to a positive Covid test result within the year group. This is not a decision that is taken lightly and is made in consultation with Public Health and the Local Authority.

In addition a number of children and staff have had to isolate due to having Covid type symptoms or being in a household where a member has symptoms. This leads to us having to make staff changes at very short notice. We will do our best to ensure that any staff cover is by people who know your children, we will only inform you if the staff absence is going to be for a significant period. Thank you for your understanding in this.

As a staff we have been working hard to develop our use of Google classroom to support any child who is isolating. If you are one of our families who are currently having to stay home please make sure you log on. There are live lessons and regular feedback from teachers. It's been fantastic to see how engaged Year 5 have been in their remote learning, there has been 75% engagement. Let's see if we can make that 100% next week.

The catering team have also been exploring how we can provide lunches for children who are eligible for Free School Meals if they need to isolate. This week we have been able to offer a sandwich packed lunch but take up has been very low. From next week, families will be provided with a 10 day hamper including meal suggestions. If you are isolating and are entitled to Free School Meals please do make sure you get a hamper.

Please be reassured we will continue to do all we can to keep your children safe, keep you informed and continue to review our risk assessment and systems.

Take care

Ms Karen Martin  
Headteacher

**If you do not have access to a laptop/ipad and/or internet at home please do tell us as we are working with families to ensure that children can be supported. We do not want this to be a barrier. Email [remoteleaing@lowerplace.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:remoteleaing@lowerplace.rochdale.sch.uk) or speak to your child's class teacher.**



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## A message from the Year 5 teachers

What a week!

As Year 5 found ourselves to be the first year group to have to isolate and return to Google Classroom, we wanted to share our experience of returning to online learning with everyone.

We have introduced live teaching sessions through Google Meets. This has provided us with the opportunity to support the children's learning as it happens, and to have face to face conversations. This has been incredibly popular with the children, who have really enjoyed still being able to see their teachers and classmates. It has also been lovely to see some of the parents engaging in their children's learning too.

We have found the children have all been very keen to learn and we are all very proud of your efforts during these tricky times! We are currently putting together some information videos to help to support families who need to return to Google Classrooms which will hopefully make it simpler when uploading children's work.

Thank you to all of our families who are putting in their best efforts to support their children's learning, we could not make this a success without you.

Remember to wear a mask when coming to and from school



## Getting a Covid Test—only of you are symptomatic

### • A message from the Local Authority

Due to severe issues with the national COVID-19 test booking system, which are beyond the council's control, the government has asked us to close our booking helpline, which we had set up to help our residents get tested more easily.

You must now visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call 119 to book a test.

People cannot just turn up and they must have symptoms to be tested.

If a pupil, student or staff member develops one or more of the main coronavirus symptoms, ONLY they should be tested. There is no need for their households to have a test, unless they are also symptomatic.

**The staff are not able to take verbal messages on the playground or at the classroom door.**

**Instead, if you need to contact us you can:**



Email the office:

[office@lowerplace.rochdale.sch.uk](mailto:office@lowerplace.rochdale.sch.uk)



Call the Office:

01706 648174



Message the class teacher

on **Google Classroom**